

What Man's Carnality Brings, Part 1 - 1 Corinthians 1:10 - February 9th, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part one of a new series I've titled, "What Man's Carnality Brings."
- The last two weeks in verses 3-9 we saw the things God's grace brings and starting in verse 10 we'll see the things man's carnality brings.
- This because, the Apostle Paul had been told of a very serious problem in the church and as such, he confronts the carnality of the church.

- More specifically, what man's carnality brought into the life of the church, and perhaps more seriously into the life of believers in the church.
- Carnality so perilous absent Paul's confronting of them and a repenting by them it had propensity to utterly destroy God's church in Corinth.
- It's for this reason that Paul, by the Holy Spirit, will put his finger on the precise problems that threatened to destroy them, and their church.

1. Divisions (Verse 10)

(10) I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

- v10 Paul appeals to them in the name of Jesus to all agree with one another so there's no divisions but instead to unite in mind and thought.
- Sadly it seems that the corrupt carnality of the Corinthian Christians had brought about divisions and dissensions, which riddled the church.
- What's interesting is that Paul uses the same Greek word for divisions, or dissensions, as he uses in his epistle to the churches in Galatia.

Galatians 5:19-21 NIV The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; (20) idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions (21) and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- The reason I point this out is because it speaks to just how serious discord, dissension, and factions are to those who actually live like this.
- So serious is this that it would rise to the level of being included with obvious sinful and carnal practices such as orgies and even witchcraft.
- By the way, it's worthy of noting that the Greek word for witchcraft is "pharmakia," which is where we get our English word for "pharmacy."

- In other words, those who cause discord, dissension, and factions, are no different than those who are living their lives addicted to drugs.
- Lest any of us think that this certainly wouldn't apply to Christians in the church, let me hasten to say this is exactly who it's addressed to.
- The reason this is addressed to the Christians in the church is to warn them that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- This is why Paul is warning them concerning the contentions, conflicts, divisions, discord, factions and schisms that had riddled this church.
- I'm of the belief that the church in Corinth was on the verge of being split and subsequently destroyed had Paul not confronted them with it.
- Here's why I believe this those who cause discord and stir up dissension amongst brothers and sisters in Christ are an abomination to God.

Proverbs 6:16-19 NIV There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: (17) haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, (18) a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, (19) a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a moment or two as I share with you something that's been heavy on my heart as of late regarding this.
- Today's social networking and blogs have created a conducive environment for this detestable and abominable stirring up of dissension.
- While I certainly don't wish to paint all of them with the same brush, in large part I blame some of these so-called, "discernment ministries."

- The reason the fingers of blame point in their direction is because of the bitter fruit from the bitter root, namely the devastation they cause.
- Make no mistake about it some discernment ministries have assassinated and excoriated the good reputation many sound Bible teachers.
- It's been said that if we take care of our character, God will take care of our reputation, which is absolutely true, however, it's devastating.

- Not so much to the one who's character is above reproach but more so to the one who's either a new believer, or worse yet a non-believer.
- Here's why, when discernment ministries falsely accuse a brother or bears false witness against a brother, they author demonic confusion.
- By that I mean they unknowingly become agents of the Devil who is the accuser of the brethren, father of lies, and the author of confusion.

- Am I suggesting that well-intentioned Christians who are of this discernment ministry ilk can actually be doing the will of the Devil himself?
- Yes, that's exactly what I'm suggesting, for a number of reasons not the least of which is their fruit of false accusations, lies, and confusion.
- I'm keenly aware saying this might seem unduly harsh but may I ask you please consider what Paul wrote in his second epistle to Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 NIV Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. (24) And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. (25) Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, (26) and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

- I'll bring my sermon to a close with one quote and three questions in the hope that all of us will take heed to the seriousness of this matter.

I'll start with the quote, which is from Pastor Damian Kyle of Calvary Chapel Modesto in California, who I've introduced you to recently, had this to say concerning the damage contentions and divisions cause, "I think that a church split is one of the most deeply painful things a Christian will ever experience if they're forced to experience it. ...I've been through the same thing, I've seen it, not with a church I was pastoring by the grace of God, but I've never seen anything more painful, than to watch a body of Christians turn on one other. What gets said and what gets done and the regret that can follow people for the rest of their lives ...is to be avoided at all costs."

- Question #1: If the church becomes a place that's riddled with dissension, where can Christians go in order to have safety and sanctuary?
- Question #2: If the church becomes a place that's riddled with dissension, what's different between the secular world and the sacred church?
- Question #3: If the church becomes a place that's riddled with dissension, how long will it be before some stop going to church all together?